

Sea Control Squadron 38
Unit 25474
FPO AP 96601-6511

Dear Griffin Families and Friends,

Greetings from VS 38 as we embark on deployment. As we push away from the pier and head west, I wanted to let you know just how proud I am of the squadron and our people and also welcome aboard our new "Red Griffin" family members.

Over the past six months, our deployment preparations placed great demands on your sons and husbands. We conducted operations at sea aboard *USS Constellation* for sixty days and twenty more ashore at Fallon, Nevada for air wing strike training; we delivered over 150,000 pounds of ordnance. We honed our strike, radar, and electronic support skills. We incorporated over 40 major modifications to our eight S-3B Viking aircraft: today, we fly the best maintained aircraft in the air wing. We have safely set new standards in combat effectiveness and are fully prepared to serve the nation and protect her interests.

A frequently overlooked ingredient in our success is family support. Your strength produces confidence, which breeds excellence. We are in a dangerous business: your positive attitude assists us in remaining focused. Throughout the past six months, our family support, whether formally through wives' groups or directly to your sons or husbands is to be commended.

Throughout deployment we will publish newsletters and distribute them electronically. If you would like to be included on this list, pass your e-mail address to the squadron by giving us your address through your Red Griffin or by e-mailing us directly at emerye@constellation.navy.mil.

We are represented at home in San Diego by our command ombudsman, Mrs. Michele Klees. She has direct access to the command. Should you have any questions or emergent needs, you can either e-mail the command or get in contact with Michele at mama_griffin@yahoo.com or by calling (619) 429-8854.

I would like to pass a definitive ship's schedule, but we guard that information in order to best protect your loved ones. Additionally, you should be aware that we may experience e-mail "black out" periods if involved in sensitive operations. Regardless, we can always get word out in emergent situations. Don't forget to write an "old-fashioned, hand-written" letter. It means just a little bit more and is a lot more fun to receive and open.

The squadron, and your loved ones, are doing great. My best to you and yours and best wishes for a swift, safe deployment.

Sincerely

W.J. Hart
Commanding Officer
VS-38

TLCO